

October 30, 1972

U.S. DELEGATION
SALT TWO-I
Geneva, Switzerland

November 21, 1972

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- *Mr. Paul H. Nitze
- *Dr. Harold Brown
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Even though one cannot agree with Middleton's further opinion that the desire for a peaceful settlement in Europe and for general détente is to be observed in many of the bloc's member-countries, nevertheless it remains a fact that the improvement in the political climate on our continent is not to the liking of NATO bosses and reactionary circles. They see it as a threat to the very existence of their aggressive alliance, which long since became an anachronism in the political structure of Europe. This is why, with the aim of "survival," the aggressive NATO circles are keeping, as formerly, to the course of creating an atmosphere of war psychosis and are continuing their saber-rattling to the accompaniment of verbiage about the "Soviet threat."

Following the recent "Strong Express" maneuvers in northern Europe the NATO staffs gave the "green light" to another military and political demonstration, this time in the region of the Mediterranean. The NATO air force exercises "Deep Surrow" had only just ended here when large naval maneuvers by the bloc began in the eastern Mediterranean under the codename "Depth Charge." Subunits of the navies of the United States, Britain, Italy, Greece, and Turkey are participating in them. During these exercises, which are being held under the leadership of Italian Admiral Pionini, commander of the bloc's joint naval forces in the southern zone of Europe, with the aim of "proving NATO solidarity." As AFP reports, landing operations with the participation of large forces of marines, methods of detecting and destroying submarines and supply operations in the open sea will be perfected. Practice firing and air defense exercises will also be carried out. Ships will put into Smyrna (Turkey), Kalamata (Greece), and Trieste (Italy).

Exercise by the ground units of a number of NATO countries are also planned for the second half of October in the western Mediterranean--on the island of Sardinia. The plan of the maneuvers provides, in particular, for the landing of Marines from ships of the U.S. 6th Fleet and for launches of various types of combat missiles.

The militarist NATO demonstrations are also accompanied by other steps threatening the peace and security of the peoples of the Mediterranean and the regions surrounding it. The creation of a base for U.S. submarines belonging to the U.S. 6th Fleet on the Italian island of Maddalena near Sardinia recently became known. Disturbing reports have appeared that the NATO command is studying the possibility of "creating a belt of nuclear mines" not far from Yugoslavia's borders. The influx of the U.S. military into Greece is continuing in connection with the granting of a permanent pass for the port of Piraeus to the U.S. 6th Fleet....

The broadening of NATO activity in southern Europe and the Pentagon's dangerous plans in the Mediterranean basin, which are creating an explosive situation in this region, are arousing decisive protests from the entire peace-loving public. Rejecting the far fetched "arguments" of imperialist propaganda on the need for some kind of "balance" of forces and the fabrications about the "Soviet threat," it rightly regards the NATO bosses' steps as an attempt to increase tension further and as another unique "Depth Charge" beneath the edifice of European security.

LATE REPORT: TASS ON RESUMPTION OF SALT TALKS

Moscow TASS International Service in English 1503 GMT 19 Oct 72 L

[Text] Moscow October 16 TASS--It is officially reported that in development of the understanding, reached at the Soviet-American summit meeting in Moscow, concerning continuation of active talks on limitation of strategic offensive weapons, the governments of the USSR and the USA agreed that talks between delegations of the two countries would be resumed in Geneva on November 21.